

*Endeavour* must make many more trips before even the experts can venture to speak with authority. But, apart from the economical aspect of the trawler's work, surely the Federal Government is justified in keeping her in commission to the end that science may be advanced. For that the scientific work which Mr. Dannevig and his assistants are carrying out is of value, and will add much to our knowledge of Australia's marine fauna, none can doubt.

[The paper was illustrated with a number of excellent lantern views.—ED. *Vict. Nat.*]

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### DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF ACANTHIZA, FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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to the Australian Museum, Sydney.\*

MR. R. Etheridge, Curator of the Australian Museum, has placed in my hands for determination a parcel of bird-skins received from Mr. H. L. White, of Belltrees, Scone, New South Wales, and collected for him by Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock, in the vicinity of Lake Way, East Murchison District, Western Australia. Although only a small collection, it contains some interesting forms, notably *Cinclosoma marginatum*, *Acanthiza robustirostris*, *Climacteris superciliosa*, and three specimens of an apparently new species of *Acanthiza*, which may be characterized as follows:—

*ACANTHIZA WHITLOCKI*, *sp. nov.*

*Adult Male.*—General colour above pale greyish-brown; upper wing-coverts like the back, some of the outer greater series with darker brown centres; quills brown, the primaries externally edged with ashy-white, the secondaries broadly margined with greyish-brown on their outer webs; upper tail-coverts light rufous brown; tail feathers pale brown, crossed with a broad sub-terminal black band, less distinct on the central pair, and having a spot of white extending about half-way across the tip tip of the inner web, and which is smaller and less distinct towards the central pair; feathers on the forehead blackish with whity-brown margins; lores and ear coverts whitish, the latter with narrow indistinct blackish margins; all the under surface white, the feathers of the chin, throat, and fore-neck with blackish margins, those of the breast faintly tinged with fulvous; lower sides of the body and under tail coverts pale fulvous; "bill black; legs and feet black; iris red" (Whitlock). Total length, 4 inches; wing, 2; tail, 1.9; bill, 0.4; tarsus, 0.8.

*Adult Female.*—Similar in plumage to the male.

\* Contributions from the Australian Museum, by permission of the Trustees.

*Habitat*.—Lake Way, East Murchison District, Western Australia.

*Remarks*.—Mr. H. L. White has done much recently to advance Australian ornithology, and, in compliance with a request, I have therefore much pleasure in associating with the present species the name of Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock, who has collected during the past few years for the Perth Museum and for Mr. White in different parts of Western and North-Western Australia.

*Acanthiza whitlocki*, of which two adult males and an adult female were obtained, is more nearly allied to *A. apicalis*. From that species, however, it may be distinguished by its greyish-brown instead of olive-brown upper parts, rendering the rufous-brown upper tail coverts more conspicuous, by its purer white under parts, and the broader black sub-terminal band on the tail feathers. Vernacularly it may be distinguished as Whitlock's Thornbill.

Possibly referable to this species is a mutilated flat skin I received in 1906 from Mr. Chas. G. Gibson, the Assistant Government Geologist of Western Australia, who was collecting in the Lake Way district during that year. This skin, which was forwarded to me under the name of *Acanthiza pyrrhopygia* (?), is, however, more of an olive-brown on the upper parts, but the entire skin and feathers of the breast and abdomen are missing.

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## THE FOX AND ITS VICTIMS: A SERIOUS SITUATION.

THE following article, contributed to the columns of the *Argus* of Saturday, 28th August, by "Wanda," points to a very serious result from the increase of foxes, which, we fear, is not realized either by the authorities or the general public, and should serve to warn others, who may be contemplating elsewhere the introduction of foreign creatures, as to the possible results:—

I am afraid it will eventually be agreed that the fox is the worst of those three great pests which we owe to unthinking acclimatising enthusiasts. The sparrow is limited in its scope of action, and the rabbit can be turned to commercial use. But the range and scope of the fox is, in a sense, unlimited, and he is commercially worthless. Like both the rabbit and the sparrow, the fox has found this country so suitable, both as regards climate and food, that he is spreading and increasing in numbers much quicker than he does in his native land. In England the utmost care has to be taken of him, so that a sufficient number may be annually available for the national sport of fox-hunting. Foxes, in England, are practically never shot, trapped, or poisoned, yet they are never over-abundant. Here every man's hand is against